Mr. Hoopes

The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

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B. ANTHONY STEWART

DIAMONDS (Bulletin No. 4) FROM THE CONGO PASS INSPECTION IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Bulletin No. 1, December 10, 1951

Divided Berlin Is a Battleground of Ideas

OUT on a 100-mile limb in Soviet-occupied Germany, Berlin today is a city of split personality, each side trying to talk the other down. By loud-speaker, electric sign, radio, placard, and parade, free West Berlin and the communist eastern sector clash in a continual war of ideas.

What is it like to live with the communist world just across the street? What is it like to live in an island in a Soviet sea?

Soviet Zone Encircles West Berlin

Imagine Washington, D. C., apportioned like a pie among four victorious powers, one of them a communist dictatorship. The dictator's minions hold the biggest section, about 45 per cent, including most of the government buildings—or what is left of them.

Ranging the countryside round about, the dictator's armies encircle the city. No train, truck, automobile, or barge can move in or out without permission. The only road link with free territory is the autobahn from Helmstedt in the British Zone—as far from Berlin as Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is from Washington.

In Berlin's Soviet Sector, beneath banners urging the people to "Protest the remilitarization of Germany," dark military columns march—rifle-toting men in black jack boots, midnight-blue uniforms, and black raincoats that recall the old nazi SS troops.

Yet on May Day morning, half a million Berliners gathered in a mighty phalanx on the free side of the Brandenburger Tor, war-scarred gate at the boundary between the city's two worlds. Thousands from the Soviet Sector poured across the line to stand with their friends in defiance of their communist overlords.

Last year West Berlin's major political parties invited their communist-ruled fellow citizens to express opposition to communism, and their desire for free and secret elections, by mailing to West Berlin city hall the stubs of their expired adult ration books. City hall desks were snowed under by more than 400,000 replies.

Berlin Reborn

Despite the knowledge that they live on a battleground of psychological warfare, West Berliners do not act like people under siege. They are cheerful and alert, extremely proud of the progress they have made in rebuilding a peaceful life (illustration, next page).

Although 85 per cent of Berlin's production facilities were dispersed, destroyed, or taken east as Russian reparations at the end of the war, industry has made a surprising comeback in the western sections despite the Soviet strangle hold.

Much of the rubble left by wartime bombing has been cleared. Salvaged bricks and stones go into new construction backed by the Marshall Plan. Music, art, and higher education have had a rebirth.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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THE INAUGURAL PARADE FOR LIBERIA'S PRESIDENT FILLS MONROVIA'S SIDEWALKS AND VERANDAS WITH SPECTATORS

Travelers say the Liberian capital is like a smaller Charleston, South Carolina, or Savannah, Georgia. Many of its 20,000 residents are descendants of freed American slaves who returned to Africa in the 1800's and founded a free country with United States help (Bulletin No. 3). The flag (left center) is modeled after Old Glory.

Bulletin No. 2, December 10, 1951

Modern Longbowmen Revive Ancient Art

BOW-AND-ARROW hunters by the tens of thousands took to the woods this autumn when short field archery seasons opened in many game preserves of the United States and Canada. For several decades the popularity of archery has been steadily increasing.

The bow and arrow became nearly extinct in the 15th century, after gunpowder had replaced it as a method for felling enemies and game. In 1545, Roger Ascham, who was later to be the tutor for England's 16th century Elizabeth before she became queen, wrote a book on archery which revived interest. By the 1750's the sport was well established in London.

Business, Not Hobby

In the United States, archery as a hobby and a sport dates from 1828 when a group of enthusiasts organized in Philadelphia. The National Archery Association was founded in 1879. At that time it was principally concerned with tournament shooting. The shift from target tournaments to hunting began in earnest about 1940. Today archery ranks among the top ten sports in popularity.

From the Stone Age until the invention of gunpowder and later, archery was a serious business to many of the peoples of the world. Food, clothing, and home defense depended on skill with a bow. Cave men scratched crude pictures of archers into stone cavern walls in France and Spain. The Assyrians and Babylonians left sculpture to prove their prowess and the Egyptians recorded theirs in hieroglyphics. The Bible's Book of Genesis tells of Ishmael who "became an archer."

Thousands of Persian arrowheads have been found on the battlefield of Marathon, northeast of Athens, Greece. The Scythians probably introduced the bow to the Greeks who passed it on to the Romans. The Goths, Huns, and Vandals, with superior archery skill eventually beat the Romans to the draw.

For centuries the bow was a formidable weapon in the hands of the English. Robin Hood's prowess was only slightly exceptional. English archers, armed with powerful six-foot longbows, pierced the armor of knightly adversaries and with the bow they decided the fate of nations at the battles of Crécy, Poitiers, and Agincourt. One of the last struggles in feudal warfare, Agincourt, in 1415, saw England's 13,000 longbowmen kill or rout 50,000 French knights and supporting crossbowmen on the French field.

Primitive Tribesmen Still Use Bow

The crossbow is mounted crosswise on a stock like that of a gun; a trigger releases the arrow. Most archers today use the more familiar English longbow. At one time every Englishman was bound by law to learn to use the bow and arrow. Towns had to provide grounds for practice. Archery was the only legal sport on Sundays and holidays.

Every American is familiar with the Indian and his bow and arrow (illustration, next page). Primitive tribesmen in many lands, lacking

New stores on West Berlin streets are stocked with luxury goods—sheer stockings, jewelry, lingerie—at prices roughly comparable to those on New York's Fifth Avenue. Most people, and there are many East Berliners among them, have to content themselves with window shopping. One housewife put it this way: "We have seen so many poor things that we like to see nice things, even if we cannot buy them."

NOTE: Berlin is shown on the National Geographic Society's maps of Germany and Its Approaches, and Central Europe Including the Balkan States. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Berlin, Island in a Soviet Sea," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1951; "Airlift to Berlin," May, 1949; "What I Saw Across the Rhine," January, 1947; "Changing Berlin," February, 1937; and "Renascent Germany," December, 1928. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to the present date; $1.00 from 1930 through 1945; and $2.00 from 1912 through 1929. Earlier issues, when available, at varied prices.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 11, 1948, "Berlin Strife Retards Reconstruction."

VOLKMAR WENTZEL

IN THE CENTER OF BERLIN, POTSDAMER PLATZ DIVIDES WEST AND EAST BERLIN

People emerge from this subway exit into the British Sector of the old German capital; across the street is the beginning of the Soviet Sector. More than 62,000 West Berlin residents work on the communist side; 45,000 East Berliners commute to the west section. The war-damaged building displays communist propaganda banners.

Bulletin No. 3, December 10, 1951

Liberia Is African Stepchild of America

"THE love of liberty brought us here."

Now the national motto of Liberia, this slogan, repeated over and over by the original colonists, helped them through their early trials on the jungle coast of west Africa (map, next page).

The settlers were freed slaves from the United States, Negroes being returned to Africa by American colonization societies. Their home continent now strange to them, the colonists faced all the troubles of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth. They spoke English and had little in common with the tribes living near by.

Rubber Is Main Export

Today Liberia, the sovereign Negro republic, has come of age. The early settlers, by their own efforts and with the aid of the United States, created an independent state unique in the world. Now rubber and iron for the United States defense effort help repay the debt of American sponsorship.

Rubber is the main export. The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company leases a million-acre tract. The company hires 27,000 native workers, for whom it has built 9,000 houses. Liberian plantations supplied one-fifth of the natural rubber used by the Allies during World War II.

In 1947 Americans began cutting rail and automobile roads through dense jungles from Monrovia, the capital (illustration, inside cover), to the iron-rich Bomi hills, 41 miles inland. Last summer the first shipment of iron ore left Monrovia's newly improved harbor. The ore is high grade. The mines are expected to provide about a million tons of ore a year when peak production is reached in 1952.

A century ago, freed American slaves who had settled in Liberia sent samples of iron ore back to friends in the United States. In 1858 a national fair was held at Monrovia, and native blacksmiths exhibited plows, hoes, and other implements made from native ore. The iron deposits in the Bomi hills, discovered by the Dutch in 1934, were commercially ignored until 1947.

A Republic Since 1847

Modern production figures are a world away from early Liberian conditions. The story goes that the American Colonization Society, in 1822, paid the following articles for the strip of coastal jungle which was the start of Liberia: six muskets, one barrel of powder, six iron bars, 10 iron pots, one barrel of beads, two casks of tobacco, 12 knives, 12 forks, 12 spoons, one barrel of nails, one box of pipes, three mirrors, four umbrellas, three walking sticks, a box of soap, a barrel of rum, four hats, three pairs of shoes, six pieces of blue baft, and three pieces of white calico.

Liberia has many ties with the United States. An independent republic since 1847, its government and flag are modeled after Uncle Sam's. About 12,000 descendants of the original settlers from America now

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firearms, still rely on the bow. An exception is the spear-carrying aborigine of Arnhem Land, in Australia's Northern Territory, where the weapon was never developed.

Nineteen of the United States, and Canada, now permit bow-and-arrow hunting. Today the field archer's quarry is chiefly deer, wild pigs, wild turkeys, ducks, and squirrels. Highly skilled marksmen even go after fish. An occasional moose, bear, or mountain lion is reported. Modern bowmen claim higher target efficiency than their American Indian predecessors, but their stalking ability would seem inferior. In one state nearly 4,000 archers took out hunting permits last year but only 250 successfully stalked and bagged their game.

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A CHIPPEWA MARKSMAN HUNTS GAME FROM A BIRCHBARK CANOE

Moose and deer, when surprised swimming, are easy to bring down because the water slows their movements. The typical North American Indian bow, here pictured, is shorter than the English longbow most often used by today's sportsmen archers.

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Bulletin No. 4, December 10, 1951

Diamonds Reflect Sentiment and Superstition

THE sentimental link between diamonds and brides now has been proved by Census Bureau statistics. Figures show that weddings and diamond imports to the United States increased together during the prosperous five-year postwar period. Significantly, the postwar high contrasts with a low in both nuptial and diamond departments during a similar time span ten years back.

The origin of the modern custom of presenting a diamond ring to one's betrothed has been lost behind a curtain of folklore. According to Pliny, ancient Roman writer, only kings and princes, and not many of them, owned diamonds in the early days.

In 1477, Girl Gave Ring to Man

Although the ancients mined the precious stones in India and perhaps elsewhere, it was not until 1866 that a big-scale industry was launched in South Africa as the result of the discovery of a strangely bright pebble near Kimberley. The art of cutting diamonds to bring out maximum luster and brilliance began developing only a little earlier —in the mid-1700's.

Yet there are records indicating that diamond engagement rings were by no means unknown in medieval times. In a reversal of modern style, the Princess of Burgundy, in 1477, was said to have sent the Duke of Austria a highly valuable diamond ring as a token of acceptance of his suit.

Italians called the engagement-ring stone the *pietra della riconciliazione*, stone of harmony, because of the part it was believed to play in keeping marital relationships smooth.

Through the ages, the diamond has been a symbol of constancy and purity, and as such is particularly appropriate as a pledge of unswerving devotion. Its sparkle, legend said, was created by the fire of love. Hence, when the stone became dull, it was felt to be a sign of waning ardor, or a warning of coming dangers.

Good and Evil Attributed to Diamonds

An old English ballad sings of a king's daughter who gave to her adorer a ring set with seven diamonds. Far away at sea one day, the lover noticed the diamonds had grown pale. He rushed home, just in time to rescue his princess from marriage with another.

All sorts of powers, for good luck, health, and wealth, as well as for the darkest evil, have been attributed to the diamond. Alchemists once claimed that its wearer could be made invisible. It was thought that changes in the stone's color could betray the guilt or prove the innocence of an accused.

Pessimists held that the too-hard, too-bright gem brought its owner unhappiness, death, and illness, and that possession of a diamond flecked with red meant immediate death. Even today, a sinister folklore of misfortune and violence has surrounded many of the world's most famous stones.

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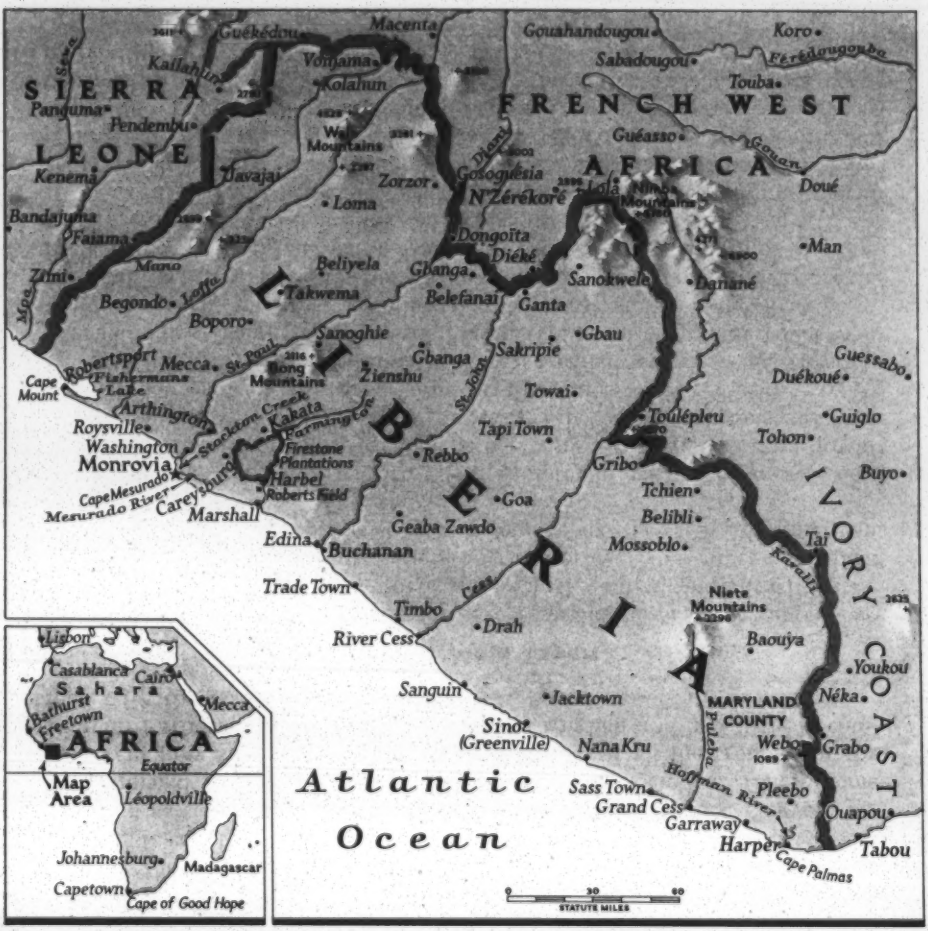
have extended their influence throughout the Ohio-sized jungle interior with its estimated 1,500,000 tribesmen.

Geological surveys of the republic suggest the presence of diamonds, gold, and petroleum. Its soil is fertile. A Liberian development program, expected to take five to ten years and to cost $32,500,000, has been under way for a year. An agreement signed by the United States and Liberian governments provides aid in engineering, agriculture, health, education, and public administration.

NOTE: Liberia may be located on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "Rubber-cushioned Liberia" in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1948; and "Land of the Free in Africa," October, 1922; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 11, 1950, "Africa's Gulf of Guinea Edges Varied Lands;" and "Liberia Celebrates Centennial as Republic," October 6, 1947.



DRAWN BY HARRY S. OLIVER AND IRVIN E. ALLEMAN

A LITTLE LARGER THAN OHIO, LIBERIA STRETCHES 350 MILES ALONG AFRICA'S COAST

Such names as Monrovia (for President James Monroe), Washington, Buchanan, and Maryland County indicate Liberia's kinship with the United States. The Americo-Liberians live along the coast. Indigenous tribes include the Moslem Mandingos and the pagan Krus.

Bulletin No. 5, December 10, 1951

Iceland Once More Serves as Sentry Post

FOR the second time within ten years, Iceland, Leif Ericson's island, has become a North Atlantic sentry post.

Stationed on a rocky outpost of glacial ice and volcanic fire, where sea and air lanes cross and Europe's weather is made, United States soldiers have resumed a watch which 45,000 other Yanks set in July, 1941, and kept throughout the war.

Gulf Stream Warms the Winters

The first time, the German U-boat threatened. This time, Iceland, most remote of the twelve North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations, takes its place as guardian of the North Atlantic. By direct great-circle air route, Reykjavík, capital of Iceland, is 2,600 miles from New York, 2,150 miles from Moscow (Moskva). Over Iceland swings the sky road between the United States and Europe. Airplanes land on the lava apron at Keflavík's airport, one of the largest in the world.

Flowing northward, the Gulf Stream contradicts the chilly name which the Norseman, Floki, gave to Iceland. It turns back icy waters flowing from the North Pole, and gives the island warmer winters than 31 of the United States normally feel. Warm ocean air collides with the Arctic atmosphere over the perpendicular cliffs of fjords and a hundred volcanoes, and produces a churning weather cauldron.

Snow-capped craters, wind-swept plateaus, desolate lava deserts, and glaciers framed with hot springs give Iceland's 39,758 square-mile area the name "land of frost and fire."

For the 140,000 people whose forefathers maintained peace without arms for 1,000 years, the land never has offered an easy livelihood. It has been wracked by earthquakes, epidemics, and violent volcanic eruptions such as Mt. Hekla's blast in 1947. The soil is thin and poor above its lava bed. There is no coal, no metal, no usable timber.

Fish Are Iceland's Most Important Export

Icelanders make the best of their natural resources. They have tapped rushing, ice-fed rivers for hydroelectric power. Other generators now are spun by volcanic steam piped from the fiery furnace beneath the island's crust. Steaming springs give free-heated water which is piped into radiators, greenhouses, laundries (illustration, next page), and outdoor swimming pools which are used even in winter.

Hay, potatoes, and turnips are grown in the short summer under perpetual daylight. From the greenhouses come tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, and grapes. Hundreds of thousands of sheep and cattle roam the plateau pastures. But Iceland's biggest, most important crop is fish.

Cod, haddock, and herring—salted, smoked, canned, and frozen—are shipped all over the world. They make up about 95 per cent of the nation's exports in value and volume. Because the world fish market slumped and the herring failed for six consecutive years, Iceland has had a hard time since the war ended. Marshall Plan aid has helped.

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The modern diamond industry (illustration, cover) draws the bulk of its supply from South Africa and the Belgian Congo. Gem stones come chiefly from South Africa; industrial diamonds from the Belgian Congo. The Congo leads the world in diamond output by weight.

Other important sources for the precious stones are Brazil and various west African states.

Diamonds have also been found in the United States, notably in an Arkansas area some 60 miles from the resort town of Hot Springs. There Uncle Sam's only diamond mine was recently reported to be reopening as a tourist and educational attraction.

Diamonds used in industry are imperfect or poor in color and hence unsuitable as gems. The diamond is the hardest substance known to man.

NOTE: Regions of the world's most famous diamond mines may be located on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "'Rockhounds' Uncover Earth's Mineral Beauty," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1951; "Exploring the World of Gems," December, 1950; "Brazil's Land of Minerals," October, 1948; "Weighing the Aga Khan in Diamonds" (nine color photographs), March, 1947; "Cities That Gold and Diamonds Built," December, 1942 (out of print; refer to your library); and "Under the South African Union," April, 1931.

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES, LTD.

A LUCKY AFRICAN DIAMOND MINER FINDS A VALUABLE GEM

He gives it to his overseer (right), who will pass it on to the company. The finder gets a reward which varies in amount according to the size of the diamond. This mine is near Kimberley, Union of South Africa, site of the 1866 discovery that launched the modern diamond industry.

In accepting this help, and in requesting United States troops to bolster their island's defense, Icelanders still hold fast to a proud heritage of independence. At once the oldest and one of the youngest republics on earth, Iceland was settled by Norsemen who fled from royal oppression in their homeland in 874.

By 930 they had set up their Althing, the first democratic parliament in the world. In 1000, while an Icelander—Leif Ericson—was discovering America, the Althing met on the Thingvellir plain and adopted Christianity as the national creed.

Falling first under Norwegian rule (1262) and then Danish (1380), Iceland became an independent kingdom in 1918. It acknowledged the King of Denmark as joint sovereign. On June 17, 1944, Iceland proclaimed itself a republic and elected its first president, Sveinn Bjornsson.

Iceland never has had an army or a navy. It protested at British occupation in 1940, after the Germans marched into Denmark and Norway, but, in 1941, welcomed protection from the United States, then neutral.

Joining the United Nations in 1946, and the North Atlantic Defense Alliance in 1949, Iceland has acted under that treaty in accepting on her peacetime soil the troops of another nation.

NOTE: Iceland is shown on the Society's map of The Top of the World, and the new World Map, issued as a supplement to the December, 1951, issue of the Magazine.

For further information, see "Iceland Tapestry," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1951; "American Soldier in Reykjavik," November, 1945; "Ancient Iceland New Pawn of War," July, 1941; and "A Walking Tour Across Iceland," and "The Island of the Sagas," April, 1928.

EWING GALLOWAY

THERMAL SPRINGS FURNISH THE ICELAND HOUSEWIFE WITH A NATURAL "LAUNDROMAT"

At this public laundry near Reykjavik, doing the washing might be called an outdoor sport. Spring water, steaming hot and remarkably soft, is piped into tubs. Clothing already washed drips from iron bars arched above a concrete trough of rinsing water. The work is sometimes done inside as spring water is often piped into buildings used as public laundries.